

REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-13. Also, Applicants add new claim 14 and cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 12-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

Objection to the specification

The examiner has objected to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent bases for the claimed subject matter. Applicants submit that the amended claims comply with the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d) and MPEP. § 606.01(o). Also, Applicants submit that claim 2 does not recite “character input processing means which ... displays character input criteria” as asserted by the Examiner.

Claim objections

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being an improper multiple dependent claim. In view of the claim amendments made to claim 10, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 10.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In view of the claim amendments made to claims 1-2, 5-6, 9 and 11-13, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-2, 5-6, 9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner asserts that a program must be on a computer-readable medium.

Applicants submit that amended claims 6 and 9 comply with the requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 6 and 9.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada (EP 0 850 673). Applicants traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “input criteria display means for displaying input criteria, wherein when the priority input device information acquired by the priority input device information acquisition means indicates that a character input device is selected, a character input criteria is displayed as the input criteria and when the priority input device information acquired by the priority input device information acquisition means indicates that a speech input device is selected, the character input criteria is displayed as the input criteria when a predetermined characteristic of the character input criteria is not provided and a speech input criteria is displayed as the input criteria corresponding to the character input criteria in regard to the predetermined characteristic of character input criteria when the predetermined characteristics of the character input criteria is provided.”

Applicants submit that Hamada does not disclose the unique features noted above.

Hamada is directed to a voice recognition device comprising a voice input section and a voice recognition section for recognizing the player's voice by comparing the voice signal output from this voice input section with data from previously defined voice recognition dictionaries, and generating control signals relating to the game on the basis of the recognition result (page 2, lines 37-40). Hamada discloses that the voice recognition section can either be a non-specific voice recognition dictionary, which is previously defined for unspecified speakers(any user) or the voice recognition section can include a player specific speaker voice recognition dictionaries corresponding respectively to a plurality of players (page 2, lines 41-46).

However, Hamada does not disclose **an input criteria display means for displaying character input criteria as input criteria when a character input device is selected and displaying a speech input criteria corresponding to the character input criteria when a speech input device is selected and a predetermined characteristic of the character input criteria is provided.**

Specifically, Hamada discloses that a player can record his or her preferred voice sounds for each button of the pad. A command for this purpose is input and a desired word is selected or input and recorded for each item of the pad data. The desired word can be input and recorded by two different ways. First method is by selecting text of the screen (i.e. typing the word) and recording the selected word. Second method is inputting the desired words via a microphone. The difference between the two methods is that, in the first method, by merely selecting the text of the screen, the word being recorded is generic and non-specific to the user. In the second method, the word being stored is specific to the user since the user's voice is being recorded. (page 11, lines 24-31).

Therefore, Hamada merely discloses **a method of storing desired words by either selecting them off the screen or by inputting using a microphone**; it does not disclose a display means for **displaying two types of input criteria**. A character input criteria, if the character input device is selected and a speech input criteria, if the speech input device is selected and a predetermined characteristic is provided for the character input criteria.

Furthermore, Hamada does not disclose a character input processing means for determining whether or not information input by the character input device corresponds to the character input criteria, and controls a game on the basis of the determination result and speech input processing means for determining whether or not information input by the speech input device corresponds to speech recognition data corresponding to the input criteria, and controls the game on the basis of the determination result.

Hamada does not disclose displaying two types of input criteria, the character input criteria and the speech input criteria on the screen depending in the type of input device selected and a predetermined characteristics of the character input criteria being provided. Accordingly, Hamada does not disclose a means for determining whether or not information **input by the character input device corresponds to the character input criteria** that was displayed by the input criteria display means when the character input device was selected. Also, Hamada does not disclose a means for determining whether or not **information input by the speech input device corresponds to the speech input criteria** that was displayed by the input criteria display means when the speech input device was selected and a predetermined characteristics of the character input criteria being provided.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13

Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 recite subject matter analogous to claim 1, and therefore are allowable at least for reasons similar to those for which claim 1 is shown to be allowable.

Further with regard to claim 7, 9, 12 and 13, we would submit that these claims recite, *inter alia*, “means for displaying input criteria of which at least one of the input criteria is different between when the priority input device information indicates that a character input device is selected and when the priority input device information indicates that a speech input device is selected.”

The Examiner asserts that page 6, lines 20-32 discloses that the input information differs depending on whether the player is using the game pad or voice recognition. Applicants disagree with the Examiner at least for the following reasons.

In page 6, lines 20-32, Hamada merely discloses a **relationship between word dictionary and the corresponding buttons**; it does not disclose **displaying input criteria**. Furthermore, Hamada does not disclose that at least one of the **input criteria** that are being displayed is **different between when a character input device is selected and a speech input device is selected**. In particular, there is no disclosure that at least one of input criteria displayed for a speech input device is different from the input criteria displayed when the character input device is selected.

Claim 4

Claim 4 depends from claim 2, and therefore is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada in view of Volk et al (US Patent No. 5,673,401).

Applicants submit that since claim 3 depends from claim 2, and since Volk does not cure the deficiency noted above with respect to claim 2, claim 3 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 2.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

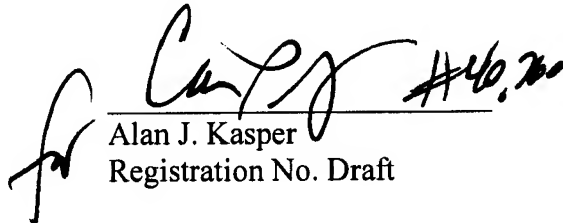
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